

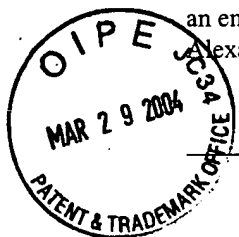
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 24, 2004

Date of Deposit

Joseph F. Hetz - Reg. No. 41,070

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

[Signature]
Signature



Patent

Our Case No. 10672-28

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
Dhindsa)	
)	
Serial No.: 10/731,327)	Group Art Unit: 3739
)	
Filed: December 8, 2003)	
)	
For: Endoscope Valve)	
Assembly and Method)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

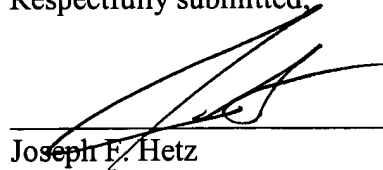
Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.99, Applicant hereby submits documents A1-A46 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of documents A4-A46 are not provided since they were previously submitted to the Office in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in prior application serial numbers 09/761,784; 10/022,134; and 10/271,485, which are being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Applicant submits copies of document A1-A3. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of these documents and make them of record.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Further, Applicant reserves the right to contest that any of the information submitted herewith is prior art against the present application.

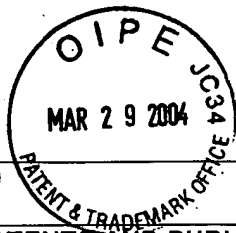
Dated: March 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joseph F. Hetz', is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph F. Hetz
Reg. No. 41,070
Attorney for Applicant

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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/731,327	CASE NO. 10672-28
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE December 8, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 3739
(use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT(S): Dhindsa

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	6,533,720 B1	03/2003	Dhindsa		
	A2	6,666,818 B2	12/2003	Dhindsa		
	A3	US 2004/0010183 A1	01/2004	Dhindsa		
	A4	2,691,370	10/1954	Wallace, F.J.		
	A5	3,144,020	08/1964	Zingale, F.G.		
	A6	3,791,379	02/1974	Storz		
	A7	4,132,227	01/1979	Ibe		
	A8	4,567,880	02/1986	Goodman		
	A9	5,290,279	03/1994	Bonati et al.		
	A10	5,536,234	07/1996	Newman		
	A11	5,830,126	11/1998	Odanaka et al.		
	A12	5,913,816	06/1999	Sanders et al.		
	A13	5,944,654	08/1999	Crawford		
	A14	5,228,646	07/1993	Raines		
	A15	5,792,139	08/1998	Chambers et al.		
	A16	5,324,254	06/1994	Phillips		
	A17	591,228	10/1897	Goltermann, A.V.		
	A18	4,497,468	02/1985	Hubbard et al.		
	A19	5,064,168	11/1991	Raines et al.		
	A20	5,207,213	05/1993	Auhll et al.		
	A21	5,647,840	07/1997	D'Amelio et al.		
	A22	4,557,255	10/1985	Goodman		
	A23	1,668,865	05/1928	Nelson, S.T.		
	A24	3,027,913	04/1962	G.N. Chatham et al.		
	A25	3,765,447	10/1973	Cornell		
	A26	4,284,101	08/1981	Weirich		
	A27	4,535,919	08/1985	Jameson		
	A28	4,874,066	10/1989	Silberstein		
	A29	5,483,991	01/1996	D'Agostino et al.		
	A30	5,967,179	10/1999	Kazakis et al.		
	A31	4,572,163	02/1986	Collins et al.		
	A32	4,881,523	11/1989	Heckele		
	A33	5,020,514	06/1991	Heckele		
	A34	5,125,910	06/1992	Freitas		
	A35	5,201,908	04/1993	Jones		
	A36	5,447,148	09/1995	Oneda et al.		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/731,327	CASE NO. 10672-28
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(use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT(S): Dhindsa

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A37	6,383,132 B1	05/2002	Wimmer	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
	A38	WO 02/056942A2	07/2002	PCT	

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
	A39	"Pathfinder Plus Continuous and Pulsatile Irrigation Bulb," Utah Medical Products, 1 page, January 5, 1999.			
	A40	"Utah Medical Products Inc., Pathfinder Plus, An Advancement in Physician Controlled Irrigation, Pathfinder Plus Endoscopic Surgical Irrigators," http://www.utahmed.com/pathfind.htm ," 2 Pages, April 19, 2000.			
	A41	"Utah Medical Products Inc., Pathfinder Plus Specifications," http://www.uthamed.com/pathfnds.htm ," 1 page, April 19, 2000.			
	A42	"Now All You Need is the Perfect Valve," B. Braun Medical Inc., 1 page, 2001.			
	A43	"Distortion-Free Hydro Laparoscopes with Distal Lens Warming," Circon Corporation, page L-7, (undated).			
	A44	"Corson Suction-Irrigation Probes 005200-903," Circon Corporation, 2 pages, 2000.			
	A45	"Opti4 Laparoscopic Handset and Electrodes," http://www.valleylab.com/displayproduct.cfm?productid=128&menu=product , 1 page, 2002.			
	A46	Photographs of "Opti4 Laparoscopic Handset and Electrodes" showing interior mechanisms, 2 pages (photos taken May 2002).			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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